

Remarks

Claims 26-43 are pending.

Claims 26-43 stand rejected.

Claims 26, 27, 39, 42 and 43 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 26-43 are pending in this application and are hereby presented for consideration by the Examiner.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 42 and 43 as being in improper multiple dependent form. Applicant has amended these claims to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.75(c) and MPEP §608.01(n) and respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 26 for containing a minor informality. Applicant has amended this claim accordingly and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 26, 27, 28 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention, for lack of antecedent basis for certain elements of the claims.

Applicants note that line one of claim 26 now begins with “A wrist mounted communication device” and thus, antecedent basis is provided for such an element in line 4-5 of the same claim and through out all claims that depend therefrom including claims 28, 40 and 41.

Additionally, the element "said horizontal plane position" is introduced in line 4 of independent claims 26, from which claim 27 depends and thus, there is sufficient antecedent basis for this element. Claim 39 has been amended to properly introduce the keypad element. As such, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that these § 112 rejections be withdrawn.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 26, 27-32, 38, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Fernando Martinez (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,803).

In paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Martinez in view of Blonder (U.S. Patent No. 5,564,082).

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's contentions and respectfully submits the following remarks in response.

The present invention is directed to a wrist-mounted telecommunication device for attaching to a wearer's wrist, comprised of an antenna system having at least a first section coupled to the device and configured to transmit and receive communication signals. The antenna has a biasing mechanism where the antenna is held in horizontal plane position of the wrist-mounted communication device when the device is not in use by a user. The biasing mechanism, when engaged, automatically releases the antenna to a desired position away from the horizontal plane when the wrist communication device is in use by the user.

In this configuration, as discussed in the specification, the present invention employs an antenna which extends away from the user's wrist. For instance, a problem which is typically experienced by wrist mounted communication devices is the close proximity of the antenna to

the user's body. The close proximity of the antenna to the user's body causes the quality of the signals which are transmitted and received by the antenna to decrease. When a wrist mounted communication device is worn, its antenna is typically very close to the user's body due to the device's slim profile. The present invention overcomes these drawbacks by implementing a biasing mechanism which releases the antenna away from the horizontal plane of the communication device.

Additionally, the antenna is held in its closed position by a biasing mechanism, such as a spring bias. The biasing mechanism releases the antenna to the desired position, without the need for the user to do so, avoiding the need for the user to manipulate or extend the antenna manually, which may be difficult due to its small size relative to the size of the fingers of the user.

The cited prior art, namely Fernandez Martinez, teaches a wrist device comprising a first module such as a personal computer and a second module consisting of a mobile telephone. As illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, and described in column 2 lines 60- 65 the antenna (11) of Fernandez is an extendable antenna, presumably by the user since no automatic means are discussed, which extends in the same horizontal plane as the mobile telephone as illustrated in Figure 1.

The cited prior art, namely Blonder, teaches a diversity antenna having a second antenna in a rotateable strap. As discussed in column 3, lines 48-52 of the specification, the second portion of the antenna is rotated (by virtue of it being located in the speaker layer) by the user when they wish to make a phone call.

Regarding the § 102 rejection of claim 26, contrary to the Examiner's contention, there is no teaching or suggestion in Fernandez Martinez which discloses the present invention as claimed. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion which discloses a biasing mechanism,

when engaged, automatically releases the antenna to a desired position. As discussed above, there is no mention at all in Martinez of biasing mechanism of any kind which, when engaged, will automatically release an antenna to a desired position, rather, Martinez simply discloses an extendable antenna.

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Martinez which discloses a biasing mechanism which releases the antenna to a desired position away from the horizontal plane when said wrist communication device is in use by the user. As discussed above, Figure 1 of Martinez shows the extendable antenna to be extending in the horizontal plane of the mobile phone in alignment with the user's arm and hand, particularly the problem the present invention is trying to avoid.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 26, 27-32, 38, 40 and 41 are not rendered anticipated by Fernandez Martinez and respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 33-37, contrary to the Examiner's contention, there is no teaching or suggestion in either Fernandez Martinez or in Blonder, either alone or in combination, which discloses the present invention as claimed. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in either cited reference which discloses a biasing mechanism, when engaged, automatically releases the antenna to a desired position.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 33-37 are not rendered obvious over Fernandez Martinez in view of Blonder and respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims currently pending in the above identified application are now in condition for

allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If in the Examiner's opinion the prosecution of the present application would be advanced by a telephone interview, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/5/02

Attorney Docket No.: 676-8cip

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of
Ghassabian

Examiner: Contee

Appl. Serial No. 09/428,228

Group Art Unit: 2681

File Date: October 27, 1999

Title: ANTENNA SYSTEM FOR A WRIST
COMMUNICATION DEVICE

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AMENDMENT
REPLACEMENT PAGES

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

Applicant submits these replacement pages to accompany the amendment filed
herewith, illustrating the unmarked claims.

26. A wrist-mounted communication device for attaching to a wearer's wrist, the device comprising an antenna system having at least a first section coupled to said device and configured to transmit and receive communication signals, said antenna having a biasing mechanism wherein said antenna is held in horizontal plane position of said wrist-mounted communication device when said device is not in use by a user, said biasing mechanism, when engaged, automatically releases said antenna to a desired position away from said horizontal plane when said wrist communication device is in use by said user.

27. The device according to claim 26, wherein said antenna is covered by a removable cover, wherein in closed position said cover holds said antenna in said horizontal plane position and wherein when said cover is removed, said biasing mechanism releases said antenna to said desired position.

28. The device according to claim 27, wherein said cover is a removable handset of said wrist-mounted communication device.

29. The device according to claim 26, wherein said wrist-mounted communication device further comprises a watch unit.

30. The device according to claim 29, wherein while attached to said

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wrist-mounted communication device, said cover and said watch unit are in opposite relationship on a user's wrist.

31. The device according to claim 27, wherein the back cover of said cover is made from the same material as the external part of said wrist-mounted communication device so that when said cover is positioned on said wrist communication device, the entire communication device appears in a uniformly integrated arrangement.

32. The device according to claim 26, wherein said antenna is expandable in its open position.

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33. The device according to claim 32, further comprising an expansion antenna configured to rotate about said first antenna.

34. The device according to claim 26, further comprising at least a second antenna configured to operate independently from said first antenna.

35. The device according to claim 34, wherein said first and second antenna operate as a diversity antenna.

36. The device according to claim 34, wherein one end of said first antenna is coupled to said communication device and the other end of said first antenna is

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rotatably coupled to one end of said second antenna.

37. The device according to claim 34, wherein one end of said first and second antenna is rotatably coupled to said communication device such that said first and second antennas are adjustable to form an angle in relation to each other.

38. The device according to claim 28, wherein said handset is a multi-sectioned handset comprising at least two sections configured to move between a closed position and an open position, wherein in closed position said multi-sectioned handset is adapted to be as small as the largest section, and wherein in open position said sections of said multi-sectioned handset expand to provide an extended handset.

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39. The device according to claim 29, further comprising a multi-sectioned keypad comprising at least two sections configured to move between a closed position and an open position, wherein in closed position said multi-sectioned keypad is adapted to be as small as the largest section, and wherein in open position said sections of said multi-sectioned keypad expand to provide an extended keypad.

40. The device according to claim 26, wherein said wrist-mounted communication device further comprises a keypad unit.

41. The device according to claim 26, wherein said wrist-mounted

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communication device further comprises a display unit.

42. The device according to claims 40 or 29, wherein said keypad unit and said watch unit are in opposite relationship on a user's wrist.

43. The device according to claims 41 or 29, wherein said display unit and said watch unit are in opposite relationship on a user's wrist.
